



August 31, 2021

Hon. Frank P. Geraci, Jr.  
United States District Judge  
Western District of New York  
U.S. Courthouse  
100 State Street  
Rochester, NY 14614

**Re: *Emilee Carpenter, LLC, et al. v. Letitia James, et al.***  
**Docket No. 21-CV-6303-FPG**  
**Supplemental Authority**

Dear Judge Geraci:

I write to alert the court to an amicus brief recently signed by Defendant Attorney General James on New York's behalf in a Fourth Circuit case. *See Brief for Massachusetts, et al. as Amici Curiae in Support of Defendants-Appellees, Updegrove v. Herring*, No. 21-1506 (4th Cir. August 27, 2021) ("Amicus Br."). This amicus brief is relevant for this Court's standing analysis.

Like Emilee Carpenter's case, *Updegrove v. Herring* involves a photographer challenging a state public-accommodations law that forces him to offer and create photographs conveying messages celebrating same-sex marriage. *Updegrove v. Herring*, No. 1:20-cv-1141, 2021 WL 1206805 (E.D. Va. March 30, 2021). On appeal, Virginia argued that it had "significant and compelling state interests" to apply its public-accommodations law to compel this photography. Brief for Appellees at 2, *Updegrove v. Herring*, No. 21-1506 (4th Cir. August 20, 2021).

In support of that argument, New York in its amicus brief affirmed that states like it have a "sovereign and compelling interest" in applying their public-accommodations laws to force photographers to offer and create photographs celebrating same-sex weddings. Amicus Br. at 1, 19–26. According to New York, states cannot afford to exempt photography studios from public-accommodations laws because that would "fundamentally hamstring" these laws and "frustrate the law's very purpose." *Id.* at 22.

As this amicus brief shows, New York continues to affirm that it has a compelling need to apply its public-accommodations laws to force creative

professionals like Emilee to create messages celebrating same-sex marriage. This position in turn underscores that Emilee faces a credible enforcement threat under New York's laws and has standing to challenge them. *See Mem. of Law in Response to State Defendants' Motion to Dismiss*, 3-11, ECF No. 57.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Jonathan A. Scruggs*  
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ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM  
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cc: All Counsel of Record via  
the CM/ECF System